

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 PRS-01

SP-02 EB-03 OES-02 INR-05 AS-01 L-01 H-01 /043 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2285

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 15295

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USINJC, TECH, IN, US

SUBJECT: SCIENCE COOPERATION WITH THE INDIANS: S&T SUBCOMMISSION
AND RUPEE-SUPPORT RESEARCH

1. IN RE STATE 270212, I HAVE SEEN NO CHANGE IN GOI ATTITUDE TOWARD
JOINT SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS NOR THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO
DEFEND THEM WITHOUT EXCEPTION AGAINST UNJUST CRITICISM.
IT WILL BE A CONSTANT SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY UNLESS THE
ISSUE IS SETTLED NOW.

2. I HAVE SENT GOI THE COMPLETE LIST OF CURRENT AND
PENDING PROJECTS AND HAVE ASKED THEM TO GIVE UNQUALIFIED
APPROVAL IN WRITING. WE ARE AWAITING REPLY. IN THE MEANTIME
I AM NOT SENDING NEW PROJECTS TO THE GOI FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

3. IN PARAGRAPH FOUR OF YOUR WIRE YOU STATE THAT YOU
FEEL GOI HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO DEFEND PROJECTS.
I DO NOT AGREE. IN MY CONVERSATION WITH CHAVAN ON THE
MOSQUITO PROJECT I ASKED HIM DIRECTLY IF HE BELIEVED THE
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE CHARGES. HE REPLIED
THAT HE DID NOT. I THEN ASKED WHY HE DID NOT SO
STATE. HE SMILED BUT GAVE NO REPLY. IT IS APPARENT
TO ME THAT THEY WILL PERMIT UNFOUNDED CHARGES AGAINST
US WHEN IT SUITS THEIR PURPOSE AND THERE WILL BE NO OF-
FICIAL DEFENSE OR SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT OF PROJECT
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SUPPORT.

4. IT WOULD APPEAR OUR ONLY WAY TO AVOID UNNEEDED
CRITICISM AND CONTROVERSY IS TO GET ADVANCE APPROVAL
AT LEAST AT THE SECRETARIAT LEVEL BEFORE ENTERING INTO
OR CONTINUING ANY PROJECT.

5. IF THE PROJECTS ARE SO IMPORTANT TO US THAT WE ARE
WILLING TO ACCEPT THAT THERE WILL BE UNDEFENDED ATTACKS
ON THEM THEN WE SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED WITH GOI APPROVAL.
IF WE WISH TO CONTINUE TO REDUCE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR
UNFRIENDLY CRITICISM THEN WE SHOULD DEMAND PRIOR WRITTEN
APPROVAL. THIS I BELIEVE WE CAN GET IF WE INSIST.

6. IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR POOR POSITION TO
EXPLAIN THE SITUATION TO CONGRESS, BELIEVE I CAN REMOVE
THIS PROBLEM BY A FEW LETTERS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN.
SAXBE

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